

REMARKS

Claims presented for prosecution in this Application are claims 20-21, claims 12-16 being canceled by the present amendment. Claims 20 and 21 have been allowed. In view of Applicants' remarks below, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 20-21 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the present Response be considered and entered, the rejections to the claims be withdrawn, and that the case now be passed to issue.

The Drawings

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication that the previously submitted drawings have been accepted.

The 35 USC 112 Second Paragraph Rejection of Claims 12-16

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 12-16 as being indefinite, as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter.

In response to Applicants' previously submitted arguments on this point, the Examiner maintains that although the specification does, in fact, support the recitation contained within claim 12, the drawing figures do not reflect the content of the specification and claim 12 on this issue.

Applicants respectfully traverse any such interpretation of the present specification and drawing figures, however merely in an effort to advance prosecution, Applicants have canceled claims 12-16.

In light of the cancellation of claims 12-16, Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding 35 USC 112 second paragraph rejection of claims 12-16 now be withdrawn.

The 35 USC 102(b) Rejection of Claims 12-16 over Van Huffel

The Examiner has rejected claims 12-16 as being anticipated by Van Huffel. In response, Applicants respectfully assert that Van Huffel does not disclose, at least, each and every aspect of newly amended independent claim 1.

Moreover, although claims 12-16 were rejected over Van Huffel, there appears to also be a rejection of claims 12-16 on the basis of Iizuka. Thus, it is not clear or understood whether claims 12-16 are rejected over Van Huffel, over Iizuka, or both.

Regardless, and without conceding to the validity of the outstanding rejection and merely in an effort to advance prosecution, Applicants have canceled claims 12-16.

Applicants therefore believe the outstanding rejection of claims 12-16 to be moot, and respectfully request that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

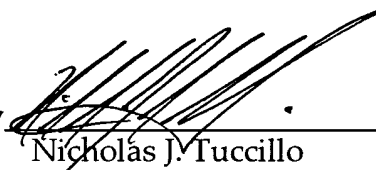
In view of the remarks above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 20-21 are allowable, and an early action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number below to expedite resolution of any issues that the Examiner may consider to remain unresolved. In particular, should a Notice of Allowance not be forthcoming, the Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned for a telephonic interview, an Examiner's Amendment, or the like, while the outstanding issues are fresh in the mind of the Examiner.

It is believed that no fees or deficiencies in fees are owed. However, authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 13-0235 in the event any fees are owed.

Respectfully submitted,

By


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